



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'17 MAY -2 P2:53

SENATE

P.S.R. No. 351

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator **Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros - Baraquel**

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ISSUE OF 'SECRET DETENTION CENTERS' WITHIN POLICE STATIONS, AND ALLEGATIONS OF EXTORTION AND TORTURE AGAINST DETAINEES BY MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP)

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 12(2) of the Philippine Constitution reads that, '(s)ecret detention places, solitary, incommunicado, or other similar forms of detention are prohibited';

WHEREAS, Article 125 of the Revised Penal Code penalizes any public officer or employee who detains a person for some legal ground but fails to deliver that person to the proper judicial authorities within a maximum period of thirty six hours (for crimes punishable by afflictive and capital penalties);

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2017, in an unannounced inspection conducted by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Manila Police District (MPD) Station 1, Tondo, it was discovered that twelve detainees, male and female, were locked inside a cramped space measuring 1 meter by 5 meters hidden behind a book case, with no ventilation and light source, and no separate area for personal hygiene functions, and only a metal bar separating the men from the women;

WHEREAS, it was alleged that suspects were kept there until they could raise money for their release, and failure to raise money meant filing of a case and the transfer to a regular prison cell;

WHEREAS, it was further alleged that these suspects were subjected to various acts of torture and violence, including the use of a 'Bulldog' or a paddle to hit the suspects' thighs;

WHEREAS, National Capital Region Police Office director, Chief Supt. Oscar Albayalde, in a statement, said that 'this problem is not just in one police station but almost in all our stations region-wide', confirming fears of human rights advocates that the issue is not isolated to MPD Station 1;

WHEREAS, this issue of secret detention centers must be seen against the backdrop of the government's War on Drugs that has killed thousands of Filipinos, mostly from impoverished areas, and has demonstrated an ignorance of, and disdain for, basic standards of human rights;

WHEREAS, evidence from all over the world has conclusively demonstrated that a public health approach to the drug problem, rather than the purely law and order approach that underpins this deadly War on Drugs, results in more optimal and sustainable outcomes for the individual and the community;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to urge the Senate Committee on Public Order to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the issue of 'secret detention centers' within police stations, and allegations of extortion and torture against detainees by members of the PNP.

Adopted,

ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS - BARAQUEL
Senator